

The Watergate Revival (Nehemiah 8:1-18)

Proposition: We as the people of God can experience a revival from God by opening up the Word of God and following the six steps that we outlined in this chapter.

I. They Read the Scriptures (Vs. 1-6)

- A. The People of the Scriptures (Vs. 1)
- B. The Perception of the Scriptures (Vs. 2-3)
- C. The Preeminence of the Scriptures (Vs. 4-5)
- D. The Product of the Scriptures (Vs. 6)

II. They Received the Sense (Vs. 7-9c)

- A. The Distribution of the Sense (Vs. 7,9a-c)
- B. The Distinction of the Sense (Vs. 8a)
- C. The Direction of the Sense (Vs. 8b)

III. They Responded to it's Statements (Vs. 9d-12)

- A. They were Sorrowed by its Statements (Vs. 9d-h,11)
- B. They were Submitted to its Statements (Vs. 10 & 12c)
- C. They Celebrated in its Statements (Vs. 12d-e)

IV. They Re-aligned to its Statutes (Vs. 13-17c)

- A. They Found its Statutes (Vs. 13-14)
- B. They Faltered in its Statutes (Vs. 17c)
- C. They Fulfilled its Statutes (Vs. 15-17b)

V. They Rediscovered their Strength (Vs. 17d & 10c-d)

- A. A Godly Strength (Vs. 10c-d)
- B. A Gladdening Strength (Vs. 17d)

VI. They Repeated this Scene (Vs. 18)

- A. A Persistent Scene (Vs. 18a-b)
- B. A Patterned Scene (Vs. 18c-e)

The Watergate Revival (Nehemiah 8:1-18)
After the 1972 incident at the Watergate hotel involving Richard Nixon the title Watergate has been standard and dragged through the mud. One thing that smells of political foulplay gets associated w/ water gate, iran gate, trooper gate. But actually what happened at the Watergate in Nehemiah was not illegal political activity, but a wonderful move of God that resulted in a heaven sent Revival. Nehemiah had finished the walls they were protected and secure outwardly but spiritually they were in need of a reviving spiritual cleansing. Many of the aspects we see in this chapter affect the way we worship today. But as the realities were then so are we in the church of

I. They Read the Scriptures - All thru this chapter what God does he does thru the word of God. Ever notice the liberal wing of Christianity never sees revival, b/c they dislike the word of God.

A. The People of the Scriptures - God's people have been a people of the Word. Some accuse of worshipping a Book we do not. But if you believe this book is breath of God ^{Revere} you

B. The Perception of the Scriptures - The scriptures were perceived as something for all. All that can hear & understand. Mothers, Fathers, Children Listen

C. The Preeminence of the Scriptures - Ezra was not Preeminent over them. The Book was. Reason

Preaches from just notes No Bible. There something about
D. The Product of the Scriptures - Ezra blessed
God not the people. This is a product of preaching Exalt
ation of God. A men! It's in order for you to give
a holy grunt now + again. It's costly to lift hand faces in

II. They Received the Sense - Vitrally import

A. The Distribution of the Sense - All these
different men were handed the responsibility
to distribute the word of God by understanding. I've
heard a lot of preachers that did a lot of hooping +
hollering that didn't help me understand. Teacher Preacher

B. The Distinction of the Sense - Distinctly
means to separate. To take the word of God word
by word. Bible translations be careful some trans
phrase by phrase and give you what it means. ^{here}
Every word is important. These teachers directed the word

C. The Direction of the Sense - What they
were saying had a direction. Understanding.
There was a goal in minds of these men to
reveal the truth of God. It's hard to follow some-
body when they don't know where they're going. Can't follow

III. They Responded to its Statements

A. Sorrowed by its Statements - These had
long been in bondage, lost the language, been
deluded by babbling in ways. Now they are
hearing the word of God and it crushed them as
to how far they were from God. There ought to be sorrow

B. They were Subject to its Statements - They
received this word as a command for them not for

1) ...church of God today: In desperate need of a heaven sent revival. We as the people of God can experience a revival from God by opening up the Word of God and following the six steps that we outlined in this chapter.

2) ...I'm not trying to give you my opinions, my leanings, or my guesses. When I do, I'll tell you. My aim and goal is to deliver to you as best I know how the truth of God in an understandable way.

3) ...sometimes when you hear the word of God and not smugly smile and nod your head, but hang your head in how far you have gotten from God.

some hygiene generation. They didn't rationalize and dispensationalize these statements but they submitted to them. Are you submitted to God's Word?

C. They Celebrated in its Statutes - The teachers counseled the people. Now you know, go obey!

Hear and do. God is gracious toward the repentant heart! They went out and celebrated being right w/ God. It is a glorious feeling to be led

IV. They Re-aligned to its Statutes - So they

A. They found its Statutes - In reading God's word they discovered that a practice had fallen through the cracks of time. A Statute that they had not heard of was found. Ps 119:11 Hide words in my heart not let them

B. They faulted in its Statutes - They realized that this was completely missing from their lives. Since the days of Joshua who led them to conquer the land they were returning to. They saw where they were deficient

C. They fulfilled its Statutes - They immediately constituted this Statute. They practiced it. This particular Statute had great significance at this time. It was to remind them of their travels to promise land. They would be reminded of God's

V. They Rediscovered their Strength

A. A Godly Strength - Strength is a characteristic that these people were in short supply of. as well as joy, they were crying their eyes out. Our children & g-children

don't know God. The preacher says the joy of the Lord is strength. But I don't have joy. Look close. What's joy? Not ours but the Lord's joy. The Lord's joy is our strength. What is God's joy? To see his people walk in ^{obedience}.

B. A Gladdening Strength - These people sitting in little boats outside under the stars were beside themselves with gladness. There is joy and gladness in serving and obeying God. What a load has been lifted from their hearts. They are right w/ God. Ps 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy laws.

VI. They Repeated this Scene -

A. A Persistent Scene - I love that phrase "day by day." I know that what was happening here continued thru the end of the feast. But many of the elements we see here are to be daily practices in our lives daily. The reading of the word of God, the submission to that word, the obedience of the word of God, the joy that comes from that obedience. This is a scene that should ^{persist}.

B. A Patterned Scene - The eighth day would be the first day of the week. On that day there was a solemn assembly according to the manner. I am sure that week after week we would see a similar scene. People gather, the book opened and expounded, the people acknowledge the wrong, and get right ^{in obedience}.

VII. Closing - What went on at the Watergate is a wonderful refreshing reminder of what God can do in our hearts today.

- 1) ...his people walk in obedience. The Apostle John relayed the joy of the Lord in 3 John vs 4: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. One author wrote: Tears of repentance are good, beating your breast before God is good, making sacrifices in your life - cutting off that right hand and plucking out that right eye and throwing away, that has caused you to sin - it's all very good and it's very necessary...but God's word says: 'To obey is better than sacrifice'. The joy of the Lord, His own joy in His heart will be yours if you do what He says.